

Appl. No. 09/971,131
Amdt. Dated Sep. 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously amended) A spindle nut retainer for preventing disengagement of a nut threadedly engaged to a spindle, comprising:

an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration while in place over the nut;

wherein said base section defines a central aperture; and

wherein said peripheral section has an interior surface and includes a plurality of fingers which define one or more longitudinal windows therebetween, said fingers including nut engaging surfaces on the interior surface of the peripheral section.

2. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said nut engaging surfaces each comprise two angled surfaces.

3. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said central aperture is D-shaped.

4. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said base section is flat.

5. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said base section is reinforced around said central aperture.

6. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 made from polymer.

7. (previously amended) The spindle nut retainer of claim 1 wherein said peripheral section includes an integrally formed ring at an end of and interconnecting said fingers opposite said base section.

8. (previously amended) A spindle nut retainer for preventing disengagement of a nut threadedly engaged to a spindle, comprising:

an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration while in place over the nut;

wherein said base section defines a central aperture; and

wherein said peripheral section comprises a plurality of fingers which create one or more longitudinal windows therebetween, said fingers including a flared end bent towards the center of said spindle nut retainer.

9. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 wherein said central aperture is D-shaped.

10. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 wherein said base section includes a tab bent in line with said fingers.

11. Cancelled

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12. (original) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 made from steel.
13. (previously amended) A spindle nut locking system comprising:
a spindle having a first end;
a nut threadedly engaged to said spindle, said nut having flats;
a spindle nut retainer, circumscribing said nut and said spindle, comprising an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration wherein said base section defines a central aperture, and wherein said peripheral section includes a plurality of fingers which create one or more longitudinal windows therebetween.
14. (original) The spindle nut locking system of claim 13 wherein said spindle has a D-shaped cross-section adjacent to said first end.
15. (original) The spindle nut locking system of claim 14 wherein said central aperture is D-shaped and said spindle nut retainer circumscribes the D-shaped cross section of said spindle resulting in rotational interference between said spindle nut retainer and said spindle.
16. (original) The spindle nut locking system of claim 13 wherein said peripheral member has an interior surface which defines a plurality of nut engaging surfaces.
17. (original) The spindle nut locking system of claim 13 wherein said peripheral section comprises a plurality of fingers which create one or more longitudinal windows therebetween, said fingers including a flared end bent towards the center of said spindle nut retainer.
18. (previously added) The spindle nut retainer of claim 8 wherein at least one of said fingers includes first and second lobes at an end of said peripheral section opposite said base section.
19. (previously added) The spindle nut locking system of claim 13 wherein said spindle includes a threaded section and a non-threaded section and said nut includes a first face adjacent said non-threaded spindle section and a second face on an opposite side of said nut and wherein said spindle nut retainer base section is adjacent said opposite side of said nut.
20. (currently amended) A spindle nut retainer for placing over a nut threadedly engaged to a spindle having a threaded section with a truncated circular cross-section, said spindle nut retainer preventing disengagement of the nut and comprising:

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an integral base section and a generally perpendicular peripheral section maintaining a cup-shaped configuration while in place over the nut;

wherein said base section defines a central aperture having a truncated circular shape for receiving the complementary shaped truncated circular cross-sectioned spindle to prevent rotation of the spindle nut retainer about the spindle;

wherein said peripheral section defines one or more longitudinal windows into which one or more corners of the nut protrude, preventing rotation of the nut; and

wherein said peripheral section includes ~~inwardly extending portions~~ a portion for snapping over the nut and substantially closing said longitudinal windows at an end opposite the end adjacent the base section to lock said spindle nut retainer in place.

21. (previously added) The spindle nut retainer of claim 20 wherein said windows extend from said base section to an open end of the peripheral section opposite said base section.

22. (previously added) The spindle nut retainer of claim 20 wherein said windows extend from said base section to an end of said peripheral section opposite said base section closed by a continuous ring.

23. (previously added) The spindle nut retainer of claim 22 wherein said peripheral section further defines nut engaging surfaces on an interior surface.

24. (previously added) The spindle net retainer of claim 21 wherein said inwardly extending portions are flared ends of fingers upon the peripheral section.